

Market in the Park

Showcase of farmers' goods adds color to San Lorenzo

Farmers Market
SENTINEL STAFF REPORT

6-4-06

Bonny Doon organic farmer Masaharu Noda finally has a venue to sell his strawberries and spinach in Santa Cruz.

His 25-acre Shumei Santa Farm has been in operation for two years, but with space at a premium at the downtown farmers market, Noda couldn't take his goods to town until now.

Saturday marked the start of a new weekly market at San Lorenzo Park, an earthy extravaganza modeled after Eugene, Ore.'s festival-like weekend gatherings.

Beyond the handful of farmers set up in the shade behind the duck pond, mothers and their strollers ambled about racks of ties-dies, African craft displays, crystals, food stands, children's teepee and face painting table.

At the "Healing Arts Village" nearby, yoga instructor Jacob Cabrera guided his group's postures to live acoustic music while listeners did their own stretching on a knoll facing the duck pond stage.

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SATURDAY MARKET

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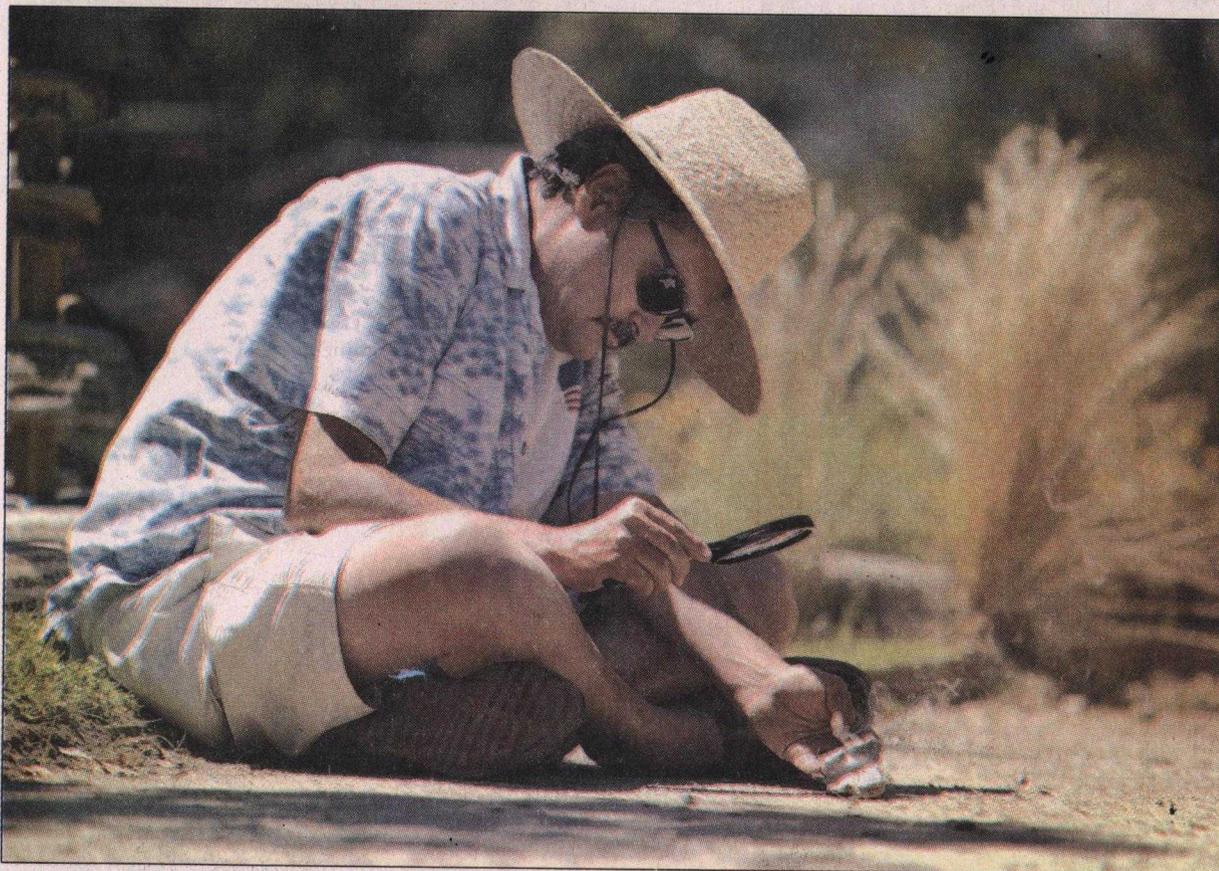
Any concerns about the park's population of transients were calmed when sheriff's deputies came through and cleared out about 25 people just minutes before the music started.

The men were seen passing around a bottle and were asked to leave, said Kylan Oaks, one of the market's promoters.

In addition to a deputy, two security guards were hired as a condition of the city's use permit.

Bezanis isn't doing much advertising, hoping instead the market will catch on via word-of-mouth.

"Everyone's having a good time," he said, surveying the scene.



Woodburner Mike Hoefer, at left, uses a magnifying glass to burn inscriptions on pieces of wood Saturday at the first Santa Cruz Saturday Market in San Lorenzo Park. Above, the world of music and art consume one vendor, who preferred to remain unidentified, at a tie-dye stand.

Bill Lovejoy/
Sentinel photos